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NEWS RELEASE

High tech counterfeiting ring busted, MVED assists Salt Lake Police

Earlier this week, investigators from the Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division (MVED) of the Utah State Tax Commission were called out to assist Salt Lake City police officers at a home on the upper east side of the city. The residence was the site of an apparent high tech counterfeiting ring capable of producing convincing state drivers licenses, 30-day registration permits and vehicle titles. Multiple arrests were made on charges of manufacturing fraudulent state documents, drug possession with the intent to distribute and auto theft.

The MVED sees counterfeiting on a regular basis, however, the work of this particular operation was very convincing to the untrained eye. The high tech backgrounds of the individuals arrested gave them the ability to produce higher quality counterfeits than most of what the division uncovers, and is something that is a sign of the times as crime keeps up with technology. Manufacturing a fraudulent 30-day permit is considered a 2nd degree felony on each count. Several of these permits were taken into evidence along with counterfeit drivers licenses and vehicle titles. In addition to the counterfeit documents, officers found the components of a complete meth lab, 1 pound of methamphetamines and two stolen vehicles at the scene.

The MVED is the division of the Tax Commission that regulates the auto industry and investigates motor vehicle fraud.

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